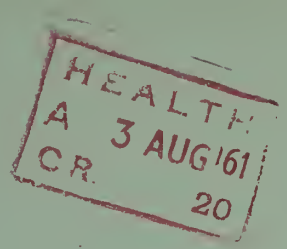


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D O W N H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R 1 9 6 0

Including the Report of the Public Health Inspector
(Mr. G. S. Sennitt, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

D R . J . A . S L A T T E R Y , M . R . C . S . , L . R . C . P . , D . P . H .



D O W N H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

Offices: London Road, Downham Market.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:-

Chairman: Mr. H. G. Teverson.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. R. Wilde.

Mr. A. Dye.	Rev. I. G. Jones
Mr. A. E. Bailey	Mr. H. W. Morley
Mr. J. H. Johnson	Mr. J. Nourse
Mr. W. H. Bentley	Col. E. R. Pratt
Mr. R. V. Lawrence	Mr. F. Starling
Mr. A. B. Fletcher	Mr. S. F. L. Warner
Mr. H. Gates	Mr. G. G. Wright
Mr. F. Green	Mr. E. J. Wright
Mr. C. W. Thornhill	Mr. L. J. Bell
Mr. M. L. Hutson	Mr. A. Hipperson

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health-

DR. J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.
Tel: Downham Market 3241.

also holds appointments of-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Urban District Council.
Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector-

G. S. SENNITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Tel: Downham Market 3287. Residence: D.M. 3364.

Additional Public Health Inspector-

G. L. FIELD, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Health Department-

MRS. G. E. GOOD.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending December 31st 1960.

The estimated mid year population was 24,520.

There were 417 live births and 204 deaths.

Births: The birth rate was 19.5.

There were 7 still births.

Deaths: The death rate for 1960 was 9.6.

There were 6 deaths from cancer of the lung. There were 3 deaths from suicide. There were 6 infant deaths, three of these were due to prematurity and three to infections. Between the age of one year and twenty five years there were 5 deaths, three from natural causes and two from accidents. There was 1 maternal death.

Infectious disease.

There were fewer notifications of infectious disease in 1960 than in the previous year. On March 14th three cases of dysentery were notified in Northwold. This was a family outbreak and no other cases were notified from the village. However, four days later cases were found in the Marham area. This became a small outbreak affecting mainly children. Strict care was taken in the school to prevent cross infection. Fortunately the Easter break helped to split up the children and during the holidays most of the cases were dealt with. Precautions were taken in the summer term but by the beginning of June the outbreak was over. In August two more cases were discovered at Tottenhill but this was a family infection which we were able to confine to the family.

In December one case of food poisoning was notified. This was caused by an organism frequently isolated from wild rodents and other animals. Careful enquiries failed to disclose the source of this infection but the fact that no other cases were found made it likely that the infection had been acquired in or near the patient's home.

There were only 4 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis. The patients were all over 25 years old. Where necessary I visit new cases or patients who move into the district. Disinfection of premises is sometimes needed when patients are removed to hospital. It has long been known that recovery from tuberculosis depends to some extent on environment. Where patients are living in crowded conditions or in damp and inconvenient buildings rehousing may be a valuable adjunct to treatment.

In 1960 the report prepared by the Standing Tuberculosis Advisory Committee was published. Part of the report described changes which have occurred in the number of cases discovered in different age groups during the last decade. Notifications for older men remain high compared with those for young men, women of all ages and children. These older men remain the infector pool for the community. Many have a chronic form of the illness which is not always disabling but is very infectious to others. Notifications for young adults have fallen considerably in the last ten years and a further reduction is expected in the future as a result of the vaccination of school leavers.

/Contd....

Anthrax.

In 1947 the Minister of Labour set up a Committee to enquire into methods existing for the control of anthrax. The Committee examined various industries in which anthrax is likely to occur and noted that there had been no reduction in cases of external anthrax among those who handle hides and an increase in the number of cases among those who handle bones and bone meal. The Committee recommended among other things that anthrax should be notifiable under the Public Health Act. Anthrax became a notifiable disease in the Public Health (Infectious disease) amendment regulations of 1960.

I should like to record my appreciation for the assistance and support I have had during the year from the Clerk, Public Health Inspector and members of the Local Health Office staff.

J. A. SLATTERY

Medical Officer of Health.

24.5.1961.

LOCAL BYELAWS, etc., in operation in the Rural District of Downham containing provisions relating to Health.

	Operating from
1. Building Byelaws made by the Council	12.12.53.
2. Clean Food Byelaws made by the Council	14.8.50.
3. Byelaws as to the Sanitary Condition and Management of Private Slaughterhouses made by the Council	1.2.57.
4. Byelaws made by the Wisbech and District Water Board for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them and Regulations to be read in conjunction therewith	30.5.55.
5. Byelaws as to Good Rule and Government made by the Norfolk County Council	1.6.55.
6. Byelaws made in relation to the Employment of Children by the Norfolk County Council	1.12.49.
7. Byelaws as to Gates across and adjoining Highways	29.11.34.
8. Byelaws relating to the wearing of collars by dogs and the Norfolk (Control of Dogs) Regulations, 1925	No date specified.
9. Byelaws and Regulations relating to Nursing Homes made by the Norfolk County Council	No date specified.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1960.

Area (in acres)	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census)	19,962
Population, 1951 (Census)	24,508
Estimated Population, 1960	24,520
Estimated number of separate Dwellings occupied, 1960	6,460
Estimated Rateable Value at 1st April, 1960	£264,005
Product of a Penny Rate, 1960-61.	£799

Section A.

Live Births	417
Rate per 1,000 population	19.2
Ditto for Administrative County	17.34
Ditto for England and Wales	17.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total	
Live Births.. .. .	4.1
Deaths (all causes)	204
Rate per 1,000 population	9.6
Ditto for Administrative County	9.97
Ditto for England and Wales	11.5
Still Births	7
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	16.5
Ditto for Administrative County	20.26
Ditto for England and Wales	19.7
Total Live and Still Births	424
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	6
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	14.4
Ditto for Administrative County	15.99
Ditto for England and Wales	21.7
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate	
Births.. .. .	15.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate	
Live Births.. .. .	Nil.
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births).	7.2
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live Births).	12.0
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined	
per 1,000 total Live and Still Births).. .. .	23.6
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	2.4

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Section B.

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.
Norfolk Executive Council, 54 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.
Clerk: F. H. Adams Esq.
2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.
Senior Administrative Medical Officer: DR. J. B. EWEN, M.D.,
D.P.H.
Croft-Holme, 117 Chesterton Road, Cambridge.
 - (a) General.
 - (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
 - (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
 - (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
 - (iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick).
 - (v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.
 - (b) Maternity.
 - (i) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
 - (ii) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
 - (iii) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.
 - (c) Infectious.
 - (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
 - (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
 - (iii) Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.
 - (d) Sanatoria.
 - (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
 - (e) Mental.
 - (i) St. Andrew's Norwich.
 - (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
 - (iii) Little Plumstead, Norwich.
3. MATERNITY SERVICES.
 - (a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served):-

Nurse Bodnar (temp.), Nurses House, Fir Close, Mundford,
(Feltwell, Hockwold).

Nurse Hunns, Stoke Ferry Road, Methwold, Thetford. (Methwold)

Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow, King's Lynn.
(Wimbotsham, Stow, Wormegay, South Runciton, Stone Cross
Estate).

Nurse O'Leary, Nurse's Home, Nordelph.
(Downham West, Nordelph).

Nurse Harris, Nurse's House, Buckenham Drive, Stoke Ferry.
(Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Whittington).

Nurse Akred, 6 Queen's Place, Wiggenhall St. Germans.
(Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall St. Germans,
Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen, Watlington, Tottenhill).

Nurse Delamore, Nurses House, Stow Bridge.
(Marham, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Stradsett, Fincham,
Barton Bendish).

Nurse P. A. Tuck, Nurse's House, Hilgay.
(Denver, Ryston, Fordham, Hilgay, Southery).

Nurse Williams, 2 Queen's Close, Wereham.
(Crimplesham, West Dereham, Wereham, Boughton, Wretton).

Nurse Greensitt, 10 Chapel Lane, West Winch. (Setch).
 - (b) Maternity.
Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee.

The Downham Rural Area is jointly served by the Downham Market, King's Lynn and Thetford Ambulances. Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Local Health Office, 15, Nelson Street, King's Lynn.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

- (a) Wiggenshall St. Germans - Mrs. Richer.
- (b) Watlington - Mrs. Thomas.
- (c) Marham - Mrs. F. Brown
- (d) Downham Market - Mrs. I. Burbeck.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

- (a) Infant Welfare Centres.

- (i) Downham Market.
 - (ii) Wimbotsham.
 - (iii) Southery.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at the following villages - Methwold, Hockwold, Hilgay, Northwold, Shouldham, Stoke Ferry, Welney, West Dereham, Magdalen, Wormegay, St. Germans, Nordelph, Marham, Feltwell and Watlington.

- (b) School Dental Clinic.

A School Dental Officer now attends the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market, on Wednesday and Friday of each week.

- (c) Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are available for the following parishes and villages - Barton Bendish, Feltwell, Hockwold, Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Wereham, West Dereham, Stow Bridge, Watlington, Magdalen, St. Germans, Methwold, Denver, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Hilgay, Fincham, Setch, Tottenhill, Wimbotsham, Runcton Holme and Bexwell.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays - 5.30 p.m.

Females and Children: Tuesdays and Wednesdays - 3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

9. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.
Under the direction of Dr. I. M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Clarence House, 6 Clarence Road, Norwich.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Section C
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1960.
Causes of Death.

Table No. 1

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	6	1	7
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	-	6
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	10	6	16
15. Leukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	16	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	25	13	38
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	5	7
20. Other heart diseases	8	17	25
21. Other circulatory diseases	7	10	17
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	3	4	7
24. Bronchitis	3	3	6
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	2	-	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis, Nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	9	8	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
34. All other accidents	2	5	7
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
<hr/>			
All causes	104	100	204

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1960

Notification in Age Groups

	AGES.													TOTAL	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over	Age Un- known			
MEASLES	4	3	9	9	11	44	15	1	-	-	-	-	1	97	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH	2	1	2	1	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
PNEUMONIA	-	1	1	-	1	7	2	1	8	2	1	1	10	35	1	-
INF. JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
ERYSIPELAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4	-	-
NON-PARA POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARALYTIC POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
DYSENTERY	2	4	3	-	1	19	4	-	9	2	1	-	-	45	4	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DIPHThERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	9	15	10	13	82	27	3	18	6	4	1	13	210	7	0

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1960

(Other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
MEASLES	3	2	1	1	3	9	26	15	13	8	6	10	97
WHOOPING COUGH	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	4	-	1	-	15
PNEUMONIA	3	4	8	6	2	2	2	-	3	2	1	2	35
INF. JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
SCARLET FEVER	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	7
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ERYSIPELAS	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
NON-PARA POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARALYTIC POLIO	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
DYSENTERY	-	-	3	25	12	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	45
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS	10	8	13	33	18	14	34	23	21	12	10	14	210

Table No. 4.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS - 1960

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.				Total
	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non Respiratory Male	Non Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non Respiratory Male	Non Respiratory Female	
-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
-35	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
-45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L S	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a summary of the Council's public health work during 1960. The Clearance of unfit houses actually proceeded more rapidly than in previous years, although many properties previously classified as unfit but repairable in 1954 and 1955 had to be downgraded. This process will undoubtedly continue to some extent, but it is felt that progress is satisfactory. There is no doubt that the bulk of the worst houses have been dealt with, but I would again recommend the Council to consider purchasing some older but sound properties in which to rehouse problem families who remain in very bad houses at certain points in this area. House letting committees are naturally reluctant to place these tenants in expensive post war houses, but undoubtedly, the children in these families deserve every consideration.

The refuse disposal rounds were reorganised during the year owing to the increase in refuse collected. There is no doubt that three men instead of two will have to staff the vehicles on most rounds within a year or two. The hard work carried out by the Council's refuse collection staff at the present time is worthy of special mention.

The Council also authorised the regular employment of a Contractor to assist in the emptying of cesspools owing to the insistent and increased demand for the service.

Work continued on the preparation of sewerage schemes at Feltwell, Southery, Hilgay and Denver, and it was expected that the Southery scheme would be commenced early in 1961.

A Pupil Public Health Inspector, Mr. K. Steele of King's Lynn commenced service in the Department on 2nd May, 1960. With the volume of work ahead of the Council, I am confident that his services will be valuable, and I am equally certain that the variety of work performed in the District will provide him with a good opportunity to acquit himself well in the inevitable examinations!

May I again record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation given by Members, Officers and outside staff of the Council during the year. I am indebted to my colleagues the Surveyor and Housing Manager for information relating to housing and sewerage.

Summary of Visits.

Water Supply	11
Drainage.. .. .	663
Refuse Collection and Disposal	361
Rodent Control	7
Petroleum.	102
Moveable Dwellings.. .. .	126
Factories.	10
Housing	964
Licensed Premises	20
Meat Inspection	687
Slaughterhouses	10
Milk & Dairies.	4
Bakehouses	7
Food Premises.. .. .	115
Infectious Disease.. .. .	36
Salvage	10
Street Numbering	12
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.	350
Total	3495

1959 - 3514.

1958 - 3493.

1957 - 3408.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

180 complaints were entered in the Register, investigated and dealt with.

The complaints were mainly of unsatisfactory drainage, housing defects and smells from accumulations of refuse, manure and the keeping of animals. In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring out the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

NOTICES SERVED.

The number of written notices other than Housing Act Notices served during the year was 81, classified as follows:-

	Informal (Letters)	Statutory	Complied with.	Complied with Notices served during 1958/59.
Housing Repairs	19	-	5	5
Drainage and Sanitation	25	-	13	-
Food Premises	10	-	4	7
Water Supply	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous	5	-	4	-
Petroleum	18	-	4	1
Moveable Dwellings	4	-	-	2
Totals	81	-	30	16

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

(a) General.

It was again not possible to make sufficient routine inspections of food premises owing to other important work. The hygienic standard continues to improve however, and in particular the facilities at many licensed premises were vastly improved by the Brewery Companies.

Codes of Practice were issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in relation to the retail meat and fish trade, and copies were issued free to the traders in the District.

The Food Hygiene Regulations were amended in October.

An investigation was carried out during the year into the practice of washing vegetables, particularly carrots, by wholesalers. It has been alleged that the water used for washing is often dirty dyke water. The only conclusion that can yet be drawn is that vegetables should not be washed in water known to be contaminated by human sewage, and that the water used should be mains water or water of comparable purity if at all possible. The Analyst was also asked to examine one sample of dyke washing water for chemical contamination in addition. He reported "that metallic contamination, including arsenic was absent, and negative results were obtained to a test for substances soluble in petroleum ether. This test excluded the presence in any significant quantity of the majority of organic agricultural sprays. Tests designed specifically to exclude the presence of all agricultural sprays would be very lengthy and expensive

At the 31st December, there were in the District:-

- 2 Fishmongers (selling wet fish) including 1 mobile unit.
- 9 Fish Friers (including 1 mobile unit).
- 8 Bakehouses.
- 20 Butchers Shops
- 6 Licensed Slaughterhouses.
- 4 Cafes
- 88 Licensed Houses.
- 103 General Food Shops.
- 6 Shops selling sweets and lemonade.
- 3 Bakers and Confectioners.
- 4 Vans delivering bread and confectionery.
- 17 Suppliers of Milk.
- 1 Factory Canteen.
- 1 Chemist.
- 11 Mobile Food Shops operating.

Inspections of foodstuffs at 24 school canteens in the Rural District by the County Council Staff were carried out during the year, and a small amount of foodstuffs condemned and destroyed as a result.

It is the practice during these inspections to have regard to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and recommendations for their implementation are made as necessary. The question of the provision of individual towels in schools and at school canteens is now undergoing consideration by the County Education Committee.

There were no food poisoning outbreaks during the year.

(b) Ice-Cream.

6 new premises were registered during the year. At 31st December, 86 premises were selling ice-cream, including fruit ices, all of it being prepared and pre-packed by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried on in the District.

6 samples of fruit ice were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All were satisfactory.

(c) Slaughterhouses.

Six slaughterhouses were licensed during the year. They are all small and cater only for the requirements of the individual butchers.

1 at Marham.
2 at Stoke Ferry.
1 at Feltwell.
1 at Methwold.
1 at Stow Bridge.

The hygienic conditions maintained were generally satisfactory. Overcrowding at some premises is unavoidable at present owing to the very limited hanging room.

Consideration was given during January to the preparation of a Slaughterhouse Report for the Area, and discussion with adjoining Authorities and meat trade organisations took place, culminating in a Meeting on 21st March, 1960.

It appeared that 5 out of the 6 slaughterhouse owners concerned were willing to bring their premises up to the required standards by an appointed day suggested as 31st July, 1961. In addition, slaughterhouse facilities proposed by surrounding Districts appeared adequate. The Council's report was subsequently adopted and despatched to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Ministry accepted the Report in October, 1960, with the substitution of 1st October, 1961 as the appointed day by which all slaughterhouses should comply with the proper standards. The addition of proper stunning pens for cattle and extra cooling space in all premises would be likely to bring the slaughterhouses into the category of new premises, for which new licences would be necessary.

(d) Slaughtermen.

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the District at 31st December, 1960 was 29. It is interesting to note that quite a lot of these men keep their licences from a sentimental point of view, and do not practice their craft.

(e) Meat Inspection.

100% inspection of all animals was maintained with only a small amount of overtime working.

In this district, only prime animals are slaughtered for sale, and this is reflected in the small amount of meat condemned. The percentage of cattle affected by tuberculosis again dropped, 0.54% against 1.16% in 1959, 2½97% in 1958 and 5.8% in 1957.

The number of carcasses affected by Cysticercosis was halved. All were subjected to treatment by refrigeration at Downham Market.

(f) Carcase and Offal Inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART DURING THE YEAR.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	737	-	5	1379	1948	-
Number inspected	737	-	5	1379	1948	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned						
	-	-	-	1	-	-
	86	-	-	6	51	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci						
	11.66%	-	-	.503%	2.63%	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	-	-	-	55	-
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration Generalised and totally condemned						
	.542%	-	-	-	2.82%	-
	6	-	-	-	-	-
	6	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Weight of Condemned Meat.

Beasts						lbs.
Head and Offal	..	..	..	..	..	1238
Carcase Meat.	..	..	..	..	..	36
Pigs						
Head and Offal	..	..	..	..	..	715
Carcase Meat..	..	..	..	..	..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sheep						
Offal .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Carcase Meat..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Total						2042 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
						or 18 cwt. 1 qtr. approx.

(g) Registration of Premises for the Preparation of Sausages, etc.
15 butchers' premises were registered at the end of the year, and conditions remained satisfactory.

(h) Food Contamination.

2 complaints only were received and investigated, one relating to hair in bread and one relating to glass in a bottle of grapefruit.

(i) Milk and Dairies.

The District is included in a "Specified Area", and only designated milk can be sold.

At 31st December, 1960, 8 dairies and 28 distributors were registered by the Council.

With regard to designated milk the following "Dealers" Licences were issued:-

15 "Tuberculin Tested". 15 "Pasteurised". 2 "Sterilised".

In addition the following "Supplementary Dealers" Licences were issued to persons trading outside the district:-

13 "Tuberculin Tested". 13 "Pasteurised". 8 "Sterilised".

The County Council's Scheme for the sampling of milk for tuberculosis has now been discontinued since the county of Norfolk is now an attested area. Nine samples of raw milk from producer retailers or retailers in the Downham Rural District were submitted for biological examination for Brucella Abortus, and all proved negative. All 22 samples of Pasteurised and T.T. Pasteurised milk taken within the Downham Rural District during 1960 in connection with the Milk (Special designation), (Specified area) Orders 1955-57 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 satisfied the phosphatase and methylene blue tests. All nine samples of T.T. Farm Bottled Milk satisfied the methylene blue test.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, which came into force on 1st October, 1960, the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority became responsible for the issue of all designated milk licences. The registration of milk dealers and of any premises used by them for the treatment, storage and distribution of milk remains the responsibility of County District Councils under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. Co-operation between the two Authorities will thus be essential.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one licenced Knackers Yard in the District at High Street, Fincham, and conditions during the year were satisfactory. Only a small business is carried on.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

9 Site Licences for trailer caravans were in force during the year, the locations and numbers being as follows:-

Feltwell.

- One for 3 vans and 3 sheds.
- One for 4 vans.
- One for 35 vans.
- One for 5 vans.
- Two for 3 vans each.

Marham.

- One for 5 vans.

Shouldham.

- Two for 10 vans each.

The vans on the above sites were mainly occupied by service families from the R.A.F. Stations at Marham and Feltwell.

32 licences were also in force during the year in respect of individual caravans. A survey carried out in August showed that there were 204 residential caravans in the District. This was the highest figure for any district in Norfolk, although there were, of course, far greater numbers of holiday caravans in other districts.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into force on 29th August, 1960, and this set up a new licencing system for caravans, the need for which had been shown by the Sir Arton Wilson Report in November, 1959.

The objects of the Act are:-

- (i) to control the location of caravan sites so as to prevent them starting up in the wrong places, while allowing them to develop in suitable places,
- (ii) to improve conditions on sites by requiring good standards of layout, equipment and maintenance.

Briefly, a person desirous of setting up a site for a caravan or caravans must first obtain Planning Permission, and then a licence, the conditions on which must be based on Model Standards issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Discussions between Local Authorities and Officers involved in Norfolk with regard to administrative procedure took place towards the end of the year, and it was obvious that a great deal of work would have to be carried out in relation to existing sites to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

HOUSING.

(a) Housing Acts and Council Housing.

39 houses, mainly bungalows, were completed during the year as under:-

Ten Mile Bank	-	3 Bungalows.
Fincham	-	2 Bungalows, 2 houses.
Stoke Ferry	-	8 Bungalows.
Methwold	-	6 Bungalows.
Wiggenhall St. Germans	-	8 Bungalows, 2 houses.
Northwold	-	7 Bungalows.

All were to meet slum clearance needs. Another 46 were under construction.

51 families were rehoused from unfit dwellings, including 9 from Council owned property.

The further needs of the slum clearance programme, particularly in regard to the Stone Cross Estate, were considered in January and the Council decided to build further houses as under:-

Stoke Ferry	-	6 Bungalows.
Wereham	-	4 Bungalows.
Feltwell	-	10 Bungalows.
Crimplesham	-	4 Bungalows.
Denver	-	12 Bungalows and 4 houses.

16 pre-war houses were modernised during the year by the addition of bath, lavatory basins and w.cs., hot and cold water supplies, drainage systems and fuel stores. Improvements at a further 26 houses were in progress.

During the year, Discretionary Improvement Grants were approved in respect of 18 dwellings and Standard Grants in respect of 50 dwellings. Most of the grants are made in respect of owner/occupied property. Your Officers consider this work most interesting and well worth while.

(b) Rent Act, 1957.

3 Certificates of Disrepair were issued by the Council. No applications being refused.

2 Undertakings to repair by owners were accepted and 2 applications for cancellation were refused.

(c) Temporary Hutments, Stone Cross Estate.

At 31st December, 57 dwellings remained in occupation. They are closed or demolished when vacated, although your Housing Manager is authorised to utilise the best accommodation by transfers.

(d) Waiting List.

On 1st November, 1960 following the annual revision, there were 414 individual applications for accommodation registered, figures for previous years being as under:-

1959	-	364
1958	-	363
1957	-	331
1956	-	314
1955	-	301

The Parishes of Denver, Feltwell and Stoke Ferry had most applications in that order.

(e) Summary of Council Dwellings at 31st December.

Traditional Houses.

(a) Pre-war	..	..	..	..	..	420
(b) Post-war	..	..	..	..	..	759

Pre-fabricated Permanent Houses.

(Aireys and Swedish)	..	..	..	..	76
Stone Cross Temporary Hutments	..	..	..	..	57
Flats	..	..	..	..	8

Other Properties.

Downham Market	..	..	..	..	7
Stoke Ferry	..	..	..	..	4
Wretton	..	..	..	..	1
Nordelph.	..	..	..	..	2

Total 1,334

(f) Private Enterprise Housing.

55 permanent houses and bungalows were completed during the year, and 88 were under construction.

(41 in 1959, 33 in 1958, 34 in 1957 and 19 in 1956).

HOUSING ACT ACTION
1st January to 31st December, 1960.

	Demolition orders made.	Closing orders made	Undertakings not to relet accepted.	Unfit dwellings Vol. Demolished	Unfit dwellings Dem. Formal act.	Unfit dwellings rep. formal act.	Unfit dwellings purchased	Cat. 5 dwellings still to be Dealt with.
Barton Bendish.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Boughton.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Crimplesham.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Denver.....	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Dereham West.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Downham West incl. Salters Lode.....	3	-	-	1	5	1	-	13
Feltwell.....	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	17
Fincham.....	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	9
Fordham.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hilgay incl. Ten Mile Bank.....	12	-	1	-	2	1	-	37
Hockwold.....	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	21
Marham.....	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	7
Methwold.....	7	4	-	-	2	1	-	10
Nordelph.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Northwold.....	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	12
Runcton Holme.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ryston incl. Stone X....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Shouldham.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Shouldham Thorpe.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Southery.....	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	17
Stoke Ferry.....	5	1	-	5	6	-	-	11
Stow Bardolph.....	1	1	-	1	8	-	-	12
Stradsett.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tottenham.....	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Watlington.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Welney.....	-	2	-	-	7	-	-	17
Wereham.....	-	2	-	2	3	-	-	3
Wiggenhall St. Germans..	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	4
Wigg. St. Mary Magdalen.	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	7
Wigg. St. Mary the Virgin.	7	1	-	-	2	-	-	1
Wimbotsham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wormegay	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Wretton	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	13
Totals	54	32	1	12	49	4	-	337
Figures for 1959	39	37	14	9	27	11	6	374
-do- 1958	35	26	6	9	30	11	4	445

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The fortnightly "kerbside" collection of refuse continued throughout the District. Due to increased and heavier collections the rounds were completely reorganised during the year.

On 2nd March, 1960, the new Dual Tipping Refuse Collection Vehicle of 18 cub. yards (nom.) capacity was put into service. This has proved an excellent vehicle for rural work, and it is much favoured by the men.

Four and often five men are employed on collection.

Bins were collected from the rear of premises occupied by old or disabled persons, whilst clean paper is collected separately and placed in a compartment at the front of the vehicle.

20 properties in the Saddlebow area were serviced for the King's Lynn Corporation.

Disposal of refuse took place at tips at Magdalen, Shouldham, Wereham, Fincham, Whittington, Feltwell and Ten Mile Bank. The Royal Air Force are also continuous users of the Feltwell tip, which is most difficult to control, and a fire occurred during June. The tips at Wereham and Whittington were almost full at the end of the year, and planning permission had been obtained for the use of a new small tip on private land at Wereham.

The Fordson tractor with foreloading bucket and blade continued to give good service on tip control. One man is employed on disposal, although soil cover is hauled by another employee in the Bedford tipper on occasions. Full advantage was taken of large quantities of soil loaded free by the British Sugar Corporation at Wissington Factory.

(b) SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

Clean waste paper is baled by the Council's employees in their own time at fixed rates per bale.

21½ tons were despatched during the year ended 31st March, 1961, and a surplus of £119.15. 7d resulted. The Council has a five year contract with a Board Mill.

(c) PAIL EMPTYING.

Pail closets were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Denver, Downham West, Fincham and Feltwell, 2½ days per week being spent on this work. Half of the cost of this work is borne by the General Rate fund and half by the parishes concerned by special rate.

The use of the tractor and equipment for the construction of straw composting bays for pail contents considerably eased the disposal situation, and several of these are in use on private land. Acknowledgement is made to the co-operation of farmers in this connection.

(d) CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

In addition to the work carried out on pail emptying, 408 cesspools were emptied by the Council's cesspool emptier. The Sewage Plants under the control of the Council were desludged on occasions, treatment being given at regular four-monthly intervals.

Tovey Transport Ltd. of Cambridge, were employed throughout the year, and 230 cesspools were emptied at an agreed charge of £12 per day.

Overtime working by the Council's cesspool emptier was practically eliminated by utilising the services of Tovey Transport Ltd. Priority was given to the desludging of Sewage Plants and these two factors resulted in a decrease in the numbers of cesspools emptied by direct labour. The charge for cesspool emptying is £1 for the removal of up to 2 loads, and 10/- for each additional load.

The number of cesspools emptied per year has increased from 270 in 1950 to 638 in 1960.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In the case of the Southery Village Sewerage Scheme, the Contract had been placed, and at the end of the year, an early start was anticipated.

A survey of existing house drainage was carried out by the Health Department staff in connection with this scheme.

Preparation of a sewerage scheme for Hilgay had reached an advanced stage, although not sufficient to permit application for outline approval to the County Council and the Ministry.

Schemes for the villages of Felthwell, Denver and Wiggenshall St. Mary Magdalen were also being prepared for the Council by the County Council's Public Health Engineers Department.

21 Housing Site sewage treatment plants were maintained regularly, one plant at the Stone Cross Estate becoming redundant during the year.

Periodical cleansing of various "sewerage dykes" was carried out, and sub-irrigation soakaways were installed on numerous troublesome cesspools on Council Housing Sites. Several repairs to lengths of public sewers were also necessary.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 50.

No burials were carried out by the Council during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

The object of this order made under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, is to prevent the spread by waste foods of Foot and Mouth disease, swine fever, fowl pest and other diseases. Administration was delegated to the Council by the County Council as from 1st October, 1959.

11 Licences were notified to the Council and 7 inspections were made during the year. One plant was not in the Council's district and two licencees had ceased to process.

The proper sterilisation of "swill" is considered highly important by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and a circular was received on 30th December, 1960 asking Authorities to make frequent inspections.

PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL.

The building of this pool, which the Council had decided to provide in conjunction with the Downham Market Urban District Council in March, 1959, could not be proceeded with owing to the difficulty of securing a site.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Main Piped Supplies.

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for 2 sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell.

I am again indebted to the Board's Engineer, Mr. J. K. Dawson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:-

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.

Water Analyses, 1959. Downham Rural District.

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1960 on samples from the Board's sourceworks, and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out. None of the Board's water is plumbo-solvent. The quantity of water available remained highly satisfactory.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Samples Taken.

Board's Works	No. of Tests Taken.	Bacteriological Examinations.		
		No. of Tests Negative.	No. of Tests Positive.	Chemical Analyses.
Raw waters	217	200	17	
Treated waters	409	403	6	
Consumers' taps	49	49	-	
Totals	675	652	23	135

Total of all examinations and analyses: 810.

Out of the total number of treated water samples and samples taken from consumers' taps, 98.7% were negative on examination for organisms of the Coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

J. S. COLLINS,

Chemist and Bacteriologist.

10th February, 1961.

NEW MAINS LAID DURING 1960.

River Ouse Flood Protection Scheme

Denver Head Sluice	3 in. A.C.	431 yds.
Denver Sluice.....	3 in. A.C.	214 yds.
R.A.F. Feltwell Housing Site, 1 No. Fire Hydrant		
Fixed.....	3 in. A.C.	70yds.
Black Drove, Fincham.....	2 in. P.V.C.	1,240 yds.
Little Lane, Stoke Ferry.....	2 in. A.C.	100 yds.
Thompson's Field to River Nar, Wormegay.....	2 in. A.C.	44 yds.
Manea Fifties, Welney.....	3 in. A.C.	134 yds.
" " " 1 No. Fire Hydrant fixed....	3 in. A.C.	870 yds.
" " " 2 No. Fire Hydrants fixed...	3 in. A.C.	566 yds.
Mill Road, Wiggenhall St. Germans, Renewal.....	4 in. P.C.V.	240 yds.
Methwold Hythe Road, Feltwell.....	3 in. A.C.	16 yds.

NEW SUPPLIES - January to December, 1960.

Bexwell.....	1	Setch.....	1
Boughton.....	1	Shouldham.....	6
Crimplesham.....	3	Southery.....	3
Denver.....	9	Stoke Ferry.....	14
Downham West.....	1	Stow Bardolph.....	4
Feltwell.....	25	Stow Bridge.....	1
Fincham.....	7	Stradsett.....	1
Hilgay.....	6	Tottenham.....	2
Hockwold.....	10	Watlington.....	4
Marham.....	2	West Dereham.....	3
Methwold.....	19	Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen....	3
Northwold.....	3	Wiggenhall St. Mary.....	3
Nordelph.....	6	Wiggenhall St. Germans.....	9
Runcton Holme.....	3	Wimbotsham.....	2
Roxham.....	1	Whittington.....	1
Saddlebow.....	2	Wretton.....	3
		Total	159

SMALL WATER SUPPLIES.

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, but the Council considered and decided to support numerous small rural mains extension schemes to provide for properties with inadequate supplies. It was expected that these schemes would be carried out in 1961.

In spite of the improvement grant schemes for private housing, many older properties, particularly terraced houses, are still dependant on outside standpipes, and in some cases, shallow wells.

Four samples of well water intended for use for infant feeding, were submitted for examination by the County Council's Health Department during the year. All were found unsatisfactory and alternative supplies were advised.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	55	16	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	37	18	-	-
Total.....	96	37	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

No defects were found, but in two instances defective sanitary conveniences, discovered in 1959, were made satisfactory.

Part VIII of the Act.

Only one outworker engaged in connection with a Bradford knitting wool firm is known to be employed in the District. An inspection showed conditions to be satisfactory.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

There were 4 factories in the District where Certificates were in force, with 2 further applications outstanding. By Section 9 of the 1959 Act, the County Council as Fire Authority took over the functions of District Councils in this connection on 1st December, 1960.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS.

(a) Rats and Mice.

Free treatment or advice was continued at domestic premises, whilst the charge of 10/- per hour was made in respect of business and agricultural premises.

The Rodenticide Wafarin continues to be the main poison used, with a wheatmeal base.

Whilst there are always a certain number of rats on refuse tips, continuous attention was given, and no complaints of infestation were received from neighbouring owners. The Council has one rodent operative equipped with a small van. He carried out 718 separate treatments including 2,944 visits. A private operator based at Hilgay was very active on agricultural land.

(b) Wasps.

The rodent operative also dealt with 20 wasps nests, no charge being made.

(c) Other insect pests.

Free treatment or advice was given by the Department on 24 occasions. Infestation of kitchens and larders by ants was a frequent complaint.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

